INFORMATION FOR RETURNING VETERANS

IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Community Colleges

lowa has 15 community college districts with campuses located across the state. lowa's community colleges offer more than 200 career programs ranging in length from four weeks to two years. In addition, community colleges offer the first two years of a four-year college education. Credits earned in the college transfer program are mostly transferable to lowa colleges and universities and to out-of-state institutions. lowa's community colleges have a well-deserved reputation for quality education at an affordable cost.

For more information on lowa's Community Colleges, circle 1 on the Reader Response Card.

Public Universities

lowa has three public universities: Iowa State University in Ames, The University of Iowa in Iowa City, and The University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. Each university offers an excellent education in a wide variety of majors.

For information on:

Iowa State University, <u>circle 2 on the Reader Response Card</u>, or visit <u>www.iastate.edu</u>
The University of Iowa, <u>circle 3 on the Reader Response Card</u>, or visit <u>www.uiowa.edu</u>
The University of Northern Iowa, <u>circle 4 on the Reader Response Card</u>, or visit <u>www.uni.edu</u>

Independent Colleges and Universities

There are many independent colleges and universities located throughout lowa. The independent colleges and universities offer quality education in a variety of majors.

For more information contact the Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities at 1-800-397-8970, circle 5 on the Reader Response Card, or visit their website at www.dontbeanumber.com.

Specialized Training

In addition, Iowa has many colleges offering specialized training. These include: Bible and Seminaries, Health Education, Teaching Hospitals, Business, Private Trade and Technical, Barber, and Cosmetology.

These colleges offer programs in such diverse areas as theology, business, medical, chiropractic, osteopathic, radiology, nursing, cosmetology and barbering, electronics, taxidermy, and auctioneering.

For more information on specialized training schools circle 6 on the Reader Response Card.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

lowa resident veterans may be eligible for financial assistance offered by the State of Iowa in completing their postsecondary education through such programs as the Iowa Tuition Grant Program, the Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant Program, and the Iowa Grant Program. Iowa lending institutions also offer the Federal Stafford and PLUS/SLS Ioans to assist in financing your education. Some colleges have direct lending programs through their institutions.

For additional information on these State of Iowa financial assistance programs, contact the Financial Assistance Officer at your college or university or Iowa College Student Aid Commission, 200 10th Street, 4th Floor, Des Moines, Iowa 50309, 515-242-3344.

GI BILL BENEFITS

You are encouraged to apply for GI Bill benefits, even if you are not sure of your eligibility. If you are eligible for GI Bill education benefits, you should consider using your benefits by enrolling in an <u>OJT/Apprenticeship</u> training program or an <u>Educational</u> training program as explained below and on the previous page.

ON-THE-JOB/APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

If you are learning on-the-job or have become a registered apprentice, you may be eligible for veterans' benefits. To determine if your job training can be approved, have your employer contact the lowa Department of Education, Veterans and Military Education. Examples of training programs approved in lowa include, but are not limited to, carpenter, electrician, retail manager, autobody repair, auto mechanic, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, service technician, locksmith, police officer, firefighter, meat cutter, and machine operator. Since World War II, lowa has approved many thousands of these programs for veterans under the GI Bill.

If you have questions on OJT/APPRENTICESHIP programs for GI Bill benefits, please contact the Iowa Department of Education, Veterans and Military Education, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146, or call (515) 281-3317, or circle 7 on the Reader Response Card.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The lowa Workforce Development Centers have Veterans' Representatives located in the majority of its offices. Our Veterans' Representatives are trained to assist you in preparing and finding employment. Examples of assistance include: skills assessments, job searching skills, resume building and the entire application process, interviewing techniques and suggestions on overcoming barriers to employment. Stop in or call your local Veterans' Representative to see what can be done for you.

To find your nearest Veterans' Representative check your local telephone directory or call: 515-281-9061 or 1-800-562-4692 and ask for extension 9061.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING (CONT.)

The U.S. Department of Labor maintains an office in the IWD Administration office in Des Moines. Veteran's Employment and Training Services personnel are available to answer questions about your employment and reemployment rights.

Questions regarding employment rights should be directed to the Veterans' Employment and Training Service at 515-281-9061 or 1-800-562-4692 extension 9061, or <u>circle 8 on the Reader Response Card</u>. You may also send inquiries to the Department of Labor directly by writing to the following address:

Veterans' Employment and Training Service 150 Des Moines Street Des Moines, Iowa 50309 www.dol.gov/dol/vets

VETERANS AFFAIRS REGIONAL OFFICES

The Veterans Affairs Regional Processing Center in St. Louis, Missouri is responsible for processing all GI Bill Education and On-the-Job/Apprenticeship training claims for lowa. Students in schools should work through their school designated representatives usually located in the Registrars or Financial Aid offices. Those working in job training programs need to have their programs approved by the lowa Sate Approving Agency located in the lowa Department of Education, 515-281-3317.

There is also a VA Regional Office in Des Moines and three VA Medical Centers (Knoxville, Iowa City, and Des Moines) in Iowa. Some veterans are also eligible for dental services up to 90 days after being discharged.

The VA has responsibility for administering the GI Bill that cover educational benefits, life insurance, home loan programs, medical services, payment of compensation for disabilities and for vocational rehabilitation. Some veterans may also qualify for counseling services from Vet Centers located in Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Sioux City and the Quad Cities area.

The VA Education Services offices in St. Louis can be reached toll free at 888-442-4551 or visit www.gibill.va.gov. There is also a general toll free number 800-827-1000.

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The State of Iowa offers the War Orphans Educational Allowance, a property tax exemption and lifetime hunting and fishing licenses for certain veterans, and the Iowa Veterans Home. For additional information contact the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs at (515) 242-5331 or 1-800-838-4692.

Each county in Iowa has a Veterans' Affairs Commission. To contact the county veteran's director/commissioner, call your County Courthouse.

For more information circle 9 on the Reader Response Card, or visit their website at www.iowava.org

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE COMPONENTS

lowa's National Guard and Reserve Components offer financial aid programs to support educational pursuits of their members, such as the Montgomery GI Bill and selective scholarships. Interested guard and reserve members are also provided assistance in their efforts to gain college credit for military schooling. Qualified veterans from all military services may be eligible for membership in the lowa Army/Air National Guard, as well as all reserve components located in lowa.

For more information on lowa's National Guard and Reserve Components, contact your hometown National Guard or Reserve unit; call one of the numbers listed below, or circle 10 on the Reader Response Card.

lowa Army National Guard (515) 252-4292 or 1-800-GO-GUARD (1-800-464-8273) www.1800goguard.com

lowa Air National Guard (515) 256-8542 or 1-888-F16-VIPER

U.S. Army Reserve (515) 280-7614

Marine Corps Reserve (309) 782-4228 or 1-800-303-1058

Naval Reserve (515) 285-6201

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MILITARY TRANSCRIPTS

The Army, Air Force, Army National Guard and Air National Guard have transcripts available that equates your military service to college courses. Using a military transcript, you may be able to receive college credit for your military schooling and/or experience. The acceptance of military credit varies with each educational institution and your educational program.

Former Army personnel or active guard or reservists interested in obtaining a military transcript should contact Army Transcript Services at their website http://aarts.army.mil

Service members, or former service members, of other branches interested in receiving a military transcript should contact VMET, which is a service of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. VMET's website is www.dmdc.osd.mil/vmet.

For more information on how to receive a military transcript, contact your local college or circle 11 on the Readers Response Card.

FINALLY

Your DD-214, Certificate of Release of Discharge from Active Duty, is a very important document. You will need a photocopy of your DD-214 to apply for your education benefits. You may need a certified copy for VA home loans, medical care at VA hospitals, a veteran's exemption from lowa property taxes and more. To safeguard your DD-214, you can register it with the Recorders Office at the County Courthouse nearest you. The county can then issue certified copies of your DD-214.

In some cases, copies of lost or missing DD-214's may be obtained from the **Iowa Commission of Veterans' Affairs or visit** http://members.aol.com/forvets/dd214.htm.

The U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs has made your name and address available to us as part of this outreach program. The VA is not involved in administering this lowa Department of Education program. Under VA law, no other use of your name and address by the lowa Department of Education is permitted.